



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 09/10/2009

Arlington Recycling Committee - Minutes of 9/10/09

Present: Gordon Jamieson (CoChair) Juli Brazile (CoChair), Nigel Kraus, Katrina Rideout, Anneli Mynttinen, Julie McDaniel, Ruth Yannetti (DPW), Peter Howard (Secretary)

Review of last year: Gordon noted the following w/ brief discussion of each:

- Town Day 2008: A busy booth as always
- School recycling: Increased w/ more bins & attention by Nigel, Julie and elementary school recycling coordinators. Coordination between DPW, WM & Ottoson needs improvement. School team to work on developing collection schedule for distribution to school staff/custodians
- Cardboard recycling: Heavy use of additional bins at the DPW yard (3 bins emptied twice a week) - Our initial pilot program from Spring 2008 has turned into a huge success
- Arlington Recycling Week: Again supported by BoS - Detail planning to begin at our October meeting
- Fall & Spring Community Collection Days: Very busy w/ excellent work by DPW people & support by recycling committee volunteers.
- Community Collection Bins: Some added, some need to be relocated to improve collection rate, map prepared & posted online (town website) - Additional book bin needed
- PAYT Town Meeting Warrant Article: While article initially floated by ARC, the Fincom stepped up to the bar and proposed a vote proposed which passed w/ wide support - End results is that the Town Manager has been requested to prepare a payt plan for consideration and implementation in 2010. Carolyn Dann has been assigned to help this effort under a 40 hr grant from DEP. A copy of her scope of work was provided to those present for their review.
- Eco-Fest: Compost bins sold out - Validated approach - Increased budget allotment provided by the Fincom to support additional bin promotional work this year (Eco-Fest).
- Household hazardous waste collection staffed by DPW & supported by volunteers (needed more - will work on increasing volunteer participation for next year's collection date)
- 5% reduction in year to year solid waste tonnage (FY09 vs. FY08): Chart handed out showing steady reduction since FY04 when we were incinerating ca.

19,000 tons - Current 12-month running total is 15,273 tons and dropping

- V2020 Census Insert Survey included 8 recycling questions. Copies of the compiled results of 3770 returns were handed out and discussed - Information obtained provides focus for this year's promotional, literature and advocate article work

- Increased ARC budget recommended by FinCom & approved by Town Meeting.

Single Stream Recycling: Program has begun. Mailers to all households will be sent soon. Ruth provided blue fabric shopping-bag-sized recycling bags intended to collect materials to be dumped into a 30 gal curbside collection container. Plan is to distribute bags to residents on town day, community collection days and during Eco-Fest.

Town Day Preparations:

- Setup will be early & accomplished by DPW people who will also staff the booth. DPW and SAVE club (Nigel) to assist with set up of street recycling containers. Anticipate 18-20 collections sites. WM to provide on site recycling truck (perhaps a single stream one for display). ARC/DPW needs to contact Town Day committee to insure that vendors know that they can recycle on site

- Town day handouts: The usual litany of materials stocked by the DPW - New blue in-house recycling bags - Flyers on Single Stream, Community Collection Day, Cardboard Recycling options and Map of Collection Bin Network, Recycling and Yard Waste stickers, Uncle Sam stickers/temp tattoos

- Vendors to be asked during registration to take cardboard to bins at yard

- Signup sheet for ARC volunteers (always a good way to get additional vols on board)

Town Day Volunteers: Nigel all day at SAVE booth, Juli as needed, Julie 9-11, Pete TBD

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TOWN DAY

Collection Bags for on street town day recycling collection stands: Ruth demonstrated expensive special bags & cheap bags. Committee agreed that cheap bags would be fine if tied at bottom.

LABBB Program: Ruth has agreed to support a program proposed by LABBB to help their students develop. Students to collect printer cartridges, DVDs & other small electronic devices at Town Hall twice a week & send to recycling center for a small reimbursement. ARC endorsed this initiative and suggested expanding to schools given that they would immediately provide a townwide collection network and would continue our approach of reducing our solid waste stream while also providing benefit to local schools and non-profits

Activity Calendar: Juli to prepare a list of events and meetings to attract volunteers that are unable to attend meetings regularly.

Next mtg - Thurs 10/8 Town Hall Annex 2nd floor